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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/761,511	01/16/2001	Takayuki Hisanaka	2309/01158	5640
7590 08/26/2005 DARBY & DARBY P.C. 805 Third Avenue new York, NY 10022			EXAMINER ANDERSON, CATHARINE L	
			ART UNIT 3761	PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 08/26/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/761,511

Applicant(s)

HISANAKA, TAKAYUKI

Examiner

C. Lynne Anderson

Art Unit

3761

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 October 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 13 October 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to the applicant's argument that Ehrnsperger fails to disclose the skin-protective ingredient layer applied in a predetermined pattern, it is noted that a layer having a specific shape, as described by Ehrnsperger, fulfills this limitation. A pattern is merely a design or form, and therefore the solid coating of skin-protective ingredient disclosed by Ehrnsperger has a solid pattern. The pattern is predetermined since the coating is purposefully placed on the upper surface of the topsheet.

Therefore, Ehrnsperger fulfills the limitations of the claim.

### ***Response to Amendment***

The amendment filed 13 October 2004 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132(a) because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132(a) states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows: Another layer comprising a material that is identical to the support layer disposed between the topsheet and the skin-protective ingredient layer.

Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

### ***Specification***

The amendment filed 13 October 2004 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132(a) because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132(a) states that no

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amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows: The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows: Another layer comprising a material that is identical to the support layer disposed between the topsheet and the skin-protective ingredient layer. The specification describes on pages 12-18 the support layer as being a single layer with the skin-protective ingredient layer embedded therein. The support layer is shown in figures 5A-5C as being a single layer with the skin-protective ingredient layer embedded therein. The specification further describes on pages 18-19 the coating of the support layer onto the topsheet, with no mention of another layer. The specification fails to disclose another layer as described in the amendment and therefore another layer is not supported by the original disclosure and constitutes new matter.

Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The limitation disclosing another layer

comprising a material that is identical to the support layer disposed between the topsheet and the skin-protective layer is not supported by the original disclosure, as described in the objection to the specification above.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-4 and 6-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ehrnsperger et al. (6,160,200).

With respect to claims 1-3, 6, and 8-10, Ehrnsperger discloses an absorbent article 20 comprising a liquid pervious topsheet 24, a backsheet 26, and an absorbent core 26, as shown in figures 1-6. A skin-protective ingredient containing layer is applied to the upper surface of the topsheet 24, as disclosed in column 6, line 64-column 7, line 17, in a predetermined pattern. The skin-protective ingredient is fully capable of forming an oily film on the skin of a wearer. A support layer 60 is formed over the skin protective ingredient containing layer, as disclosed in column 17, lines 59-62. The support layer 60 is soluble in water at and above 25 degrees Celsius, as disclosed in column 10, lines 36-53 and column 13, lines 1-23. It is the examiner's position that since the support layer is soluble in water, at 100% humidity, the support layer is

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therefore promoted at 100% humidity, which is greater than 30% humidity. The support layer 60 comprises polyvinyl alcohol, as disclosed in column 11, lines 38-41. The support layer 60 comprises, in at least a part of the absorbent article 20, only the soluble material 66, as disclosed in column 11, lines 3-5. The support layer 60 is therefore capable of exposing the skin protective ingredient containing layer to the skin of a wearer after dissolving.

With respect to claim 7, the absorbent article 20, as shown in figure 2, further comprises a leak-preventive cuff and a leg cuff, as disclosed in column 9, lines 49-50 and column 17, lines 18-55.

With respect to claim 11, the support layer 60 further comprises a body adhering composition formed of a polyethylene oxide, as disclosed in column 15, lines 58-67.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ehrnsperger et al. (6,160,200) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Roe et al. (5,607,760).

Ehrnsperger discloses all aspects of the claimed invention but remains silent as to the composition of the skin-protective ingredient. Ehrnsperger discloses in column 7,

lines 2-5, the skin-care ingredient comprises the lotion described in U.S. Patent No. 5,607,760 to Roe et al.

Roe discloses in column 10, lines 5-10, the skin-protective ingredient containing layer comprises liquid at 35 degrees Celsius. Roe further discloses in column 15, lines 55-56, petroleum jelly. The skin-protective ingredient of Roe reduces adherence of waste to the wearer and improves skin softness, as disclosed in column 3, lines 3-9.

It would therefore be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to provide the lotion taught by Roe as the skin-protective ingredient of Ehrnsperger, to reduce adherence of waste to the wearer and improve skin softness.

### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to C. Lynne Anderson whose telephone number is (571) 272-4932. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tanya Zalukaeva can be reached on (571) 272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CWA  
cla  
August 11, 2005

**TATYANA ZALUKAEVA**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

